UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/26015
30 June 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

1. The President of the Security Council wishes to refer to the issue of the format of the annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly, which the Council has to submit under Article 24 (3) of the Charter of the United Nations and to certain other matters.

2. The President of the Council wishes to state in this regard that all members of the Council have indicated their agreement with the following proposals:

1. The Security Council should take all the necessary measures to ensure the timely submission of its report to the General Assembly. For that purpose:

(a) The Security Council should retain the existing practice whereby the annual report is submitted to the General Assembly in a single volume covering the period from 16 June of one year to 15 June of the next year;

(b) The Secretariat should submit the draft report to the members of the Security Council no later than 30 September immediately following the period covered by the report, so that the report may be adopted by the Council in time for consideration by the Assembly during the main part of its regular session.

2. Presidential statements should be published, effective 1 January 1994, in an annual series using the prefix "S/PRST/__" followed by the year and the number of the statement. A new appendix should be included in the annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly, starting with the report covering the period from 16 June 1992 to 15 June 1993, providing a chronological listing of presidential statements for the period under review and indicating the date when the statement was made or issued and the relevant agenda item or subject-matter. At the time of approval of presidential statements, the Council members should indicate the agenda item and, where none exists, an agreed formulation of the subject-matter under which the statement is being authorized. That should be reflected in the Council document circulating the presidential statement.

3. The appendices in the annual report of the Security Council listing the resolutions and presidential statements should provide cross-references to the relevant chapter, section and subsection of the report, for each resolution and presidential statement.

4. The draft annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly should no longer be issued as a confidential document; it should be a document with a "limited distribution" designation, as is the common practice in other bodies of the United Nations.

5. Henceforth, the draft report should be adopted at a public meeting of the Security Council. At that meeting, the document containing the draft report should be made available to interested delegations.

6. Whenever inclusion of a reference to unpublished documentation in a draft resolution or a draft presidential statement is envisaged, the Secretariat should bring the matter to the attention of the President of the Council so that the President, in turn, could raise the matter with the members of the Council in order to determine whether or not to retain the reference in the draft text and, where the members of the Security Council decide that it is to be retained, whether that document should be published as an official document of the Security Council.

7. The provisional agenda for formal meetings of the Council should be included in the Journal provided that it has been approved in informal consultations.

8. The Group discussed various possible options to establish new ways to provide information to States that are not members of the Council. It was agreed that the Council should keep this question under due consideration so as to enhance its practice in this respect.

3. The members of the Council will continue their consideration of other suggestions concerning the Council's documentation and related matters.